

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending May 2, 2008

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Energy Resource Council Meeting

May 6, 2008 from 9:30 – 11:00 AM at Cabinet Room, State Capitol, Augusta

Contact: Donna Bradstreet at 287-5659 or donna.bradstreet@maine.gov

Governor's Council on Maine's Quality of Place

May 6, 2008 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM at Cabinet Room, State Capitol, Augusta

Meeting and press event with the Governor

Contact: Linda LaPlante at 287-6077 or Linda.c.laplante@maine.gov

Land for Maine's Future Board

May 13, 2008 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM at Pine Tree State Arboretum, Augusta

Contact: Aline Lachance at 287-1485 or aline.lachance@maine.gov

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Waste-to-energy facility 'Talk' report now available. The State Planning Office has prepared a new report that provides an overview of the operations of the four waste-to-energy facilities in Maine for 2006. The "talk" report details specific information and historical data on each facility. WTE facilities handle over one-third of the waste disposed by Maine businesses and residents every year. To view: [Waste-To-Energy](#)

[Facility 'Talk' Report 2006](#). CONTACT: George MacDonald at 287-5957 or george.macdonald@maine.gov

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

International cleanup goes electronic, modeling Maine's program. Each year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers walk thousands of miles coastlines, picking up litter and debris around the world. They record what and how much they collect and submit that data to the Ocean Conservancy. Last week state, national, and international coastal cleanup coordinators were hosted by the Ocean Conservancy at their annual conference. At the conference, the Ocean Conservancy launched an electronic data collection system that eliminates the need to mail thousands of paper data sheets, thus reducing costs for cleanup efforts. The move to electronic registration and data collection was modeled after the Maine Coastal Program's successful process implemented in 2006.

Also, at the conference, the Ocean Conservancy issued its report, *Start a Sea Change*, with the results of cleanup events for 2007. Globally, 378,192 people picked up 6,075,698 pounds of debris, over 33,426 miles of coastline. Maine contributed 1,939 volunteers who cleaned 109 miles of coastline and removed 8,338 pounds of debris! To view the report: www.oceanconservancy.org. CONTACT: Theresa Torrent-Ellis at 287-2351 or theresa.torrent-ellis@maine.gov.

ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Census educational video released. The US Census Bureau has developed an informational program to explain how communities benefit from Census Bureau data collection efforts. A new video, titled *2010 Census: A New Portrait of America*, features testimonials describing the importance of a complete count and why the 2010 Census will be the most important count in our nation's history. Running time: 3:10. To view: http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/broadcast/video/census_operations/011424.html. CONTACT: Amanda Rector at 287-1475 or Amanda.k.rector@maine.gov

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Volunteers honored. On April 28, at the State House Hall of Flags, Governor Baldacci and the Maine Commission for Community Service recognized the winners of the 2008 Governor's Service Awards for their exceptional contributions to Maine communities (see accompanying photo). At a separate afternoon ceremony, at the Maine State museum, 410

volunteers were named to the Roll of Honor for their outstanding service to the state. Volunteers collectively donated 405,100 hours of service in 2007. The following volunteers were recognized:

- Volunteer of the Year – Anne B. Pringle, Portland
- National Service Volunteer Award – Irene Diffin, Perry
- Outstanding Public Sector Volunteer Award – Tina McLaughlin, Bangor
- Excellence in Volunteer Administration Award – Cynthia Smith, Orono
- Corporate Volunteerism Award – L.L. Bean, Freeport
- Small Business Volunteerism Award – Trans-Tech Industries, Inc., Brewer
- Nonprofit Award –The Culinary Arts program at Washington County Community College, Calais

The Governor's Service Awards were created to celebrate and recognize the exemplary work of Maine's volunteer community. The event is hosted annually by the Governor's Office and the Maine Commission for Community Service as part of National Volunteer Week. This year's ceremony was sponsored by the National Emergency Response Team. For more information: www.volunteermaine.org. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or Rochelle.runge@maine.gov**